



# PROVIDENCE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

1800 W. Lincoln Highway • New Lenox, Illinois 60451 • (815) 485-2136 • www.providencecatholic.org

## Guidelines for Course Placement: Class of 2029

Below is a **sample** portion of an HSPT score report. For initial course placement, Providence Catholic will consider your student's national percentile score (NP) in Reading, Math, and Composite (overall score).

Subtests/Totals	Scores						Performance Ratings												
	SS		LP	LS	NP	NS	Low	Below Average	Average	Above Average	High								
Basic Skills																			
Reading	556	(GE) 9.9	76	6	70	6													
Mathematics	501	(GE) 8.9	65	6	56	5													
Language	598	(GE) 11.4	94	8	89	8													
Total Basic Skills	551	(GE) 10.1	83	7	75	6													
Option:																			
Composite	542		78	7	69	6													
							National Percentile Scale												
							1	5	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	95	99

### **Honors Program**

**National Percentile Score: 85-99**

Theology: Foundations 1 & 2  
 English 1 Honors  
 Algebra 1 Honors  
 Biology Honors  
 Language: French *or* Spanish *or*  
 Spanish for Heritage Learners  
 Physical Education *or* Cadet Band  
 Introduction to Technology (one semester)  
 Health (one semester)

### **College Preparation Program**

**National Percentile Score: 84-31**

Theology: Foundations 1 & 2  
 English 1  
 Algebra 1  
 Laboratory Physical Science  
 Language: French *or* Spanish  
 Physical Education *or* Cadet Band  
 Introduction to Technology (one semester)  
 Health (one semester)

### **College Preparation Academic Program**

**National Percentile Score: 30 or below**

Theology: Foundations 1 & 2  
 English 1 Academic  
 Algebra 1 Academic  
 Algebra Extension  
 English Extension  
 Physical Education *or* Cadet Band  
 Introduction to Technology (one semester)  
 Health (one semester)

\*Summer Studies as recommended for students.

### **\* ENGLISH 1 ACADEMIC EXTENSION**

English 1 Extension is a year-long course designed to support students as they complete English 1. Students are placed in English 1 Extension based on HSPT scores and/or teacher recommendation. Students will complete additional guided practice to complement the reading and writing skills taught in their English class. Students will use a variety of reading strategies to increase reading comprehension, especially as related to the required outside reading. Students will also focus on pre-writing, drafting, and revision of the multi-paragraph essay, and addressing grammar as needed. English 1 Extension is designed to give freshmen a strong foundation in reading and writing to prepare for the rigors of the sophomore English curriculum.



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## **\* ALGEBRA 1 ACADEMIC EXTENSION**

Algebra 1 Extension is a year-long course designed to support students as they complete Algebra 1. Students are placed in Algebra 1 Extension based on HSPT scores and/or teacher recommendation. Algebra 1 Extension provides students the opportunity to review concepts, receive individualized attention, fill gaps in math skills, work in guided study groups, and receive homework assistance. Algebra 1 Extension is designed to give students the proper interventions needed to be successful in future math classes.

## **\*SUMMER STUDIES PROGRAM**

This program reinforces skills in Math and English that will prepare students for a successful high school career. In addition, students will receive techniques to assist with studying, time management, note-taking, and test preparation.

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## **PCHS CLASS OF 2029: Course Descriptions**

### **CORE COURSES**

#### **COMPUTER SCIENCE & APPLICATIONS**

##### **INTRODUCTION TO TECHNOLOGY (1 semester) DUAL CREDIT through MORaine VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

This course will prepare the student for computer work in high school and college. It will enable students to master the skills necessary for research, word processing and presenting material using current technology. Also included will be an introduction to the Providence local area network. Specific topics include word processing using Microsoft Word, spreadsheets using Microsoft Excel, including charting and graphing, presentations using Microsoft PowerPoint and effective Internet searching and evaluation of Internet resources.

**DUAL CREDIT**-Providence Catholic partners with Moraine Valley Community College to offer students the option of earning dual credit for technology courses. In order to take **ANY** technology course as dual credit during sophomore, junior or senior year, **the student will be required to take Intro to Technology as DUAL CREDIT during freshman year.** Students will register in August during their class period with the teacher providing instructions.

#### **ENGLISH**

##### **ENGLISH 1 HONORS**

English 1 Honors includes in-depth literary study and multi-paragraph writing. In literature, students will analyze novels, short stories, poetry, and drama with a focus on concepts such as the author's purpose, technique, and theme. Strong emphasis is given to the five-paragraph essay, stressing defensible thesis statements and clear supporting evidence. Selected outside readings of classical literature are also required. Students are expected to read, discuss, and interpret the readings with maturity and independence. Students in this course should be comfortable working independently and should have mastered grammar and fundamental writing skills in junior high.

##### **ENGLISH 1**

English 1 includes grammar study, literary analysis, and multi-paragraph writing. Grammar concepts will be reinforced through differentiated practice and application in writing. In literature, students will learn and apply literary terms to their study of novels, short stories, poetry, and drama. Strong emphasis is given to the five-paragraph essay, stressing defensible thesis statements and clear supporting evidence.

##### **ENGLISH 1 ACADEMIC**

English 1 Academic is a course that includes study skills, intensive grammar study, literary analysis, and multi-paragraph writing. Foundational skills will be emphasized in this course while scaffolding activities to move to higher-level analysis and writing. Study skills are reinforced with a focus on organization, note-taking, and annotation. Grammar concepts will be reviewed with direct instruction and reinforced through application in writing. In literature, students learn and apply literary



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terms to their study of novels, short stories, poetry, and drama. Students will also write multi-paragraph essays with defensible thesis statements and clear supporting evidence.

## **ENGLISH 1 ACADEMIC EXTENSION PERIOD**

The English 1 Academic Extension Period offers support to select English 1 Academic students and is designed to give freshmen a strong foundation in reading and writing to prepare them for the rigors of the sophomore curriculum. Students will complete additional guided practices to complement the reading and writing skills taught in their English class. Students will use a variety of reading strategies to increase reading comprehension, especially as related to full-length novels and plays. Students will also focus on prewriting, drafting, and revision of the multi-paragraph essay, addressing grammar as needed within the context of writing.

## **MATHEMATICS**

### **ALGEBRA 1 HONORS**

This course builds a solid foundation of algebra skills and concepts. Topics include solving equalities and inequalities, polynomials, rational expressions, linear equations, systems of equations, relations, functions and graphing of functions. Technology in the form of graphing calculators and computers is used when applicable.

### **ALGEBRA 1**

This course offers fundamental algebra with an emphasis on the structure of the number system. Basic algebraic properties are introduced and used for the following topics: solving and graphing equations, inequalities, polynomial and rational expressions, linear equations, systems of equations, relations, and functions.

### **ALGEBRA 1 ACADEMIC**

This course offers fundamental algebra with an emphasis on the structure of the number system. Basic algebraic properties are introduced and used for the following topics: solving and graphing equations, inequalities, polynomial and rational expressions, linear equations, systems of equations, relations, and functions. Students are provided with additional instruction and guided practice with an emphasis on foundational skills.

### **ALGEBRA 1 ACADEMIC EXTENSION PERIOD**

The Algebra Extension offers support to select Algebra 1 Academic students and is designed to give students the proper interventions they need to be successful in their future math class. Students will have the opportunity to receive additional instruction, receive additional guided practice, and work in guided study groups to complement the mathematical skills taught in their Algebra 1 class.

## **PE/HEALTH**

### **PHYSICAL EDUCATION (BOYS PE and GIRLS PE)**

This course provides the student with the fundamental skills of various team and individual sports. The course offers knowledge of rules and scoring in those sports.

### **HEALTH (1 semester)**

This course covers material on the mental, social, and physical aspects of health. From a Catholic perspective, the student will also be presented with extensive material on alcohol, tobacco, drugs, and communicable diseases.

## **SCIENCE**

### **BIOLOGY HONORS**

Honors Biology is a standard driven and laboratory-based course aligned to the Next Generation Science Standards. In this course, students will utilize scientific practices and an inquiry-based approach to discover overarching concepts and gain knowledge related to life science. Students will recognize unifying themes that integrate the major topics of biology including cytology, biochemistry, cell energetics, cell division, heredity, the interdependence of organisms, how species change over time, biodiversity, and the relationships between structure and function, and several human body systems. The curriculum integrates independent research, writing skills, and critical thinking skills that stress the development of experimental design,



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detailed observation, accurate recording, data interpretation, and analysis. Students taking this course should be self-directed learners with strong reading comprehension skills.

## **LABORATORY PHYSICAL SCIENCE**

Laboratory Physical Science is a year-long laboratory course designed to introduce students to the scientific process. This course addresses three areas to explore the nature of science: data acquisition and analysis, experimental design, and written and oral communication. Activities will support the development of skills across Physics and Chemistry disciplines and promote an understanding of scientific inquiry. Through scientific content students will gain skills in *data collection and precision, statistical analysis and correlation, evaluation of scientific sources, the peer-review process, conducting research and developing questions and hypotheses*. Content will be delivered through guided inquiry, group discussion, and direct instruction.

## **THEOLOGY**

### **FOUNDATIONS OF CATHOLICISM I (1st semester) & FOUNDATIONS OF CATHOLICISM II (2nd semester)**

This first half of the Foundations of Catholicism course seeks to deepen the students understanding of the way God reveals Himself through history, scripture, Jesus, and the Church, especially through the lens of Tradition. This will be done through Church documents as well as other pertinent documents/resources. The students will have the opportunity to explore their own understanding of God. They will also be presented with an introduction to contemporary scriptural scholarship which will provide them with insights into the Old and New Testaments. Students will be offered the context to help them recognize Jesus as someone they can relate to and be challenged by. Their own lives will also be used to engage them with the subject area as above as well as Christian Living. Along with the above components, students will be engaged in study regarding Theology of the Body, and the life of St. Augustine. This first semester is a time for them to learn how to think theologically as well as begin to master the art of theological reflective writing.

Building upon Foundations I, Foundations II moves the students to a greater understanding of the Liturgy and Sacraments, not just in their symbols and rituals, but also in how they are encounters with God and a way to embody and express each individual student's relationship with God as Trinity. Students will also explore aspects of spirituality and other prayer forms that are part of the Church's life and history. They will deepen their theological thinking and skills in theological reflective writing.

## **WORLD LANGUAGES**

\*Proficiency Exams available to move into advanced levels for each language.

### **SPANISH 1 or FRENCH 1**

These courses stress proficiency in the four skills of reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Individual lessons contain dialogues, pronunciation exercises, vocabulary, grammatical explanations and exercises, cultural readings as well as writing drills. The daily life activities and culture of each language are presented in connection with each dialogue through readings, songs, films, and research projects.

### **SPANISH FOR HERITAGE LEARNERS**

Spanish for Heritage Learners is a two-year program offered to students who are from families with Spanish as a home language but need to further develop their language proficiency. Although students possess pre-existing oral communication skills, they will continue to develop how to listen, read, write, and speak in academic and cultural contexts. They engage with the Spanish language outside of their existing language and cultural competencies. Students explore local and international history and the wide-ranging aspects of the Hispanic/Latino identity through novels and current events. This course is an Honors level course. A proficiency placement exam is required.



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## **ELECTIVE COURSES**

### **STUDY HALL (1 semester or both semesters)**

This elective is a period of time specifically devoted to study. All students are expected to come prepared to quietly work on class-related material. This time also allows students to use the library or to arrange for peer tutoring.

## **COMPUTER SCIENCE & APPLICATIONS**

### **DIGITAL MARKETING (2nd semester)**

Digital Marketing provides students with an understanding of the fundamentals needed to build a clear, cooperative, communication strategy for business by strategically aligning the essential elements of digital products. This dynamic semester-long class is designed for students who are ready to explore digital marketing and its global impact. Throughout the class, students will dive into essential topics such as social media marketing, website development, digital content, and online advertising. Students will learn how to create and edit still images, video/animations, basic web sites, and social media content. The course will be beneficial for students who want to enter a variety of fields: business, advertising, marketing, public relations, visual arts, and digital media and design. It is also a good precursor to the INCubator course, which students can take during their Senior year.

### **INTRODUCTION TO PROGRAMMING (2nd semester)**

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, software development jobs are expected to increase 24% by 2026. Salaries continue to rise, and job demand increases for people with programming skills. This introductory programming class assumes no prior programming experience and will teach valuable problem-solving skills that can be applied to other academic areas. This course uses the Java programming language to teach students algorithms, program design, data structures, conditions, looping, arrays, methods and the basic components common to all programming languages. Successful students can continue programming in their AP computer Science course.

### **ROBOTICS (2nd semester)**

This course teaches the fundamentals of Robotics using curriculum and kits from FIRST (Pitsco). Throughout this course, students will be building, testing, wiring, programming and modifying robotics kits. They will use FIRST FTC Robotics kits and basic tools such as wrenches, screwdrivers, and drills. Kit components include motors, wiring, nuts, bolts and batteries. The end product is a functioning robot that performs specific tasks. The vast majority of time, students will work in groups of three. They will rotate roles and duties so that they learn all aspects of robotics. Students' grades will be based on their Engineering Notebook and the group work. This is authentic, project-based learning with cross-curricular content in physical science, language arts, communication and more. Project management skills and engineering design thinking are heavily interwoven.

## **FINE ARTS**

### **BEGINNING CHOIR**

This course is designed for those students who cannot read music or have little or no experience in choir. Students will learn how to read basic music notation; begin work in solfege, sight singing and ear training; and work to understand and utilize basic vocal technique skills. Students will work on much of the same music as Concert Choir and be actively involved in specific Masses and all concerts throughout the year. Students may proficiency out of Beginning Choir by auditioning with the Director with a prepared solo selected by the student, and by passing a basic music theory exam.

### **CADET BAND**

This course is designed for the musician who is new to the high school band. Any student wishing to learn a new instrument may also take this class. The student studies the mechanics of the instrument, basic playing techniques, and performance



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approach. The course expands the musician's knowledge and execution of technical skills, intonation, and ensemble performance. Daily rehearsals include full band and sectional rehearsal using a variety of marching/pep and concert band literature. All band members are required to participate in all band performances. This course can replace the Physical Education requirement.

## **GUITAR 1 (1 semester)**

Guitar 1 is for students at every ability level of guitar playing. Whether a student has never picked up a guitar or has been playing for years, this course is designed to teach students how to read music for guitar, follow chord progressions, improvise using the guitar, perform as part of an ensemble, and more. Students will also have an opportunity to create original music using music theory knowledge and guitar performance skills they have acquired during the course. No prior experience is needed. Each student needs to supply his/her own guitar.

## **MUSIC APPRECIATION (1 semester)**

Students will be introduced to the basic elements of music including rhythm, harmony, melody, texture and form – with musical illustrations from various styles, genres and eras. Illustrations will include music written for the symphony orchestra from the 17th through 20th centuries, the origins of jazz and its many forms, and American popular music of the 20th century. This course will also explore music from different regions of the world. No prerequisite or prior musical experience is necessary to enroll in this class.

## **INTRODUCTION TO ART (1 semester)**

This course offers a hands-on introduction to the visual arts for the beginning student. The course is based upon the fundamental elements of art. Basic techniques and materials in drawing, color theory, painting, printmaking, and sculpture are presented. An appreciation of art is developed through the application of a variety of experiences. Artistic terminology is emphasized within the course.

## **DRAWING (2nd semester)**

This course introduces the student to several techniques and materials used in drawing. Perspective, still life, portraiture, and figure drawing will be incorporated. An emphasis on observation and composition will be made throughout the course. Materials to be used will include pen and ink, scratchboard, charcoal, pastel, crayon, colored pencil and graphite.

## **TWO-DIMENSIONAL DESIGN (2nd semester)**

This course is a creative "hands-on" approach to the study of two-dimensional design. Students will experience a variety of materials and techniques while being introduced to the areas of graphic design, interior design, architectural design, typography, calligraphy, and animation.

## **PAINTING (2nd semester)**

This course introduces the student to the concepts and materials of painting. A variety of painting media will be explored in realistic, abstract, and non-objective paintings. Watercolor, tempera paints and acrylic paints will be used.